

and children living in slums. The emphasis of the programme is to take up various welfare activities like pre-school education, nutrition, community health programme, vocational training, low cost sanitation and immunisation programmes to complement investments by other local agencies.

#### Winter Sports in Kashmir

2515. SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state the steps being envisaged and help rendered to develop and further improve the winter sports in Kashmir especially at Gulmarg which besides encouraging youth to take part in winter sports can help the country to earn foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH): In order to improve the existing facilities in Kashmir in respect of winter sports, the Government have imported snow clearance equipment and internally heated vehicles and have already placed these at the disposal of the State Government. The State Government themselves have also provided a practice ski lift. Besides, there is a proposal to set up a winter sports and mountaineering institute in Kashmir in collaboration with the State Government. These and other steps will naturally boost tourism and foreign exchange earnings.

#### Failure of Projects in Meeting Irrigation Requirements

2516. DR. A. U. AZMI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are old irrigation projects and some constructed recently but the same are not able to meet the irrigation requirements; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to remedy the defects therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have been requested to identify such irrigation systems and propose modernisation of such schemes. State Governments have so far formulated 38 modernisation schemes, of which 7 have been approved.

#### Low Yield of Rice in Eastern and Central India

2517. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that yield levels of rice in the Eastern and Central India are extremely low as compared to that of Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P. ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the agro-climatic conditions of that part of the country seem to be favourable for attaining much higher levels of yield; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to raise the yield level of rice in those regions in particular, and in the whole country in general ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The present yield level of rice in States of Eastern and Central India as compared to that of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. are given below :

States	Yield (Kg/ha) (Years 1981-82)
1. Assam	993
2. Bihar	781
3. Madhya Pradesh	793
4. Orissa	1091
5. West Bengal	1120
6. Punjab	2957
7. Haryana	2470
8. Uttar Pradesh	1079
9. All India	1317

(b) Yes, Sir. The agro-climatic conditions in the Eastern States including Chhatisgarh area of M.P. are favourable for rice cultivation.